Princeton, Nov 22, 1863.

My dear Sir — x x x. no P.

Your invitation on behalf of the American Anti-Slavery Society to attend a meeting in commemorative of its Thirtieth anniversary to be held on the 3 & 4th of December at the city of Philadelphia, came to hand just as I was leaving home & I embrace the earliest opportunity after my return to reply. I have some hope of being able to be present at your meeting. In the event of my not being able to attend, will you allow me to say that I am in favor of an act of Congress abolishing slavery throughout the entire limits of the United States, & making it a penal offence to hold or claim to hold a slave.

Wm Lloyd Garrison Owen Lovejoy

If we have a right to build a Pacific Railroad, to promote the general welfare, without any specific grant of power in the Constitution, how much more have we the right to destroy that which is not only opposed to the general welfare & to the spirit & genius of the Constitution, but is in constant & now bloody antagonism to every avowed purpose for which that organic law was ordained & established. I am aware that the dogma, or fiction, (for it is nothing more,) of State Sovereignty will be opposed to this legislation. But to this theory of State Sovereignty I oppose the words of the Constitution itself: "This Constitution & the Laws of the United States which shall be ~~passed~~ made in pursuance thereof shall be the supreme law of the land, any thing in the Constitution or

laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding." Another mode of reaching the same end would be to take a slave into the United States Supreme Court & see whether that Tribunal dare refuse him freedom under the Constitution. I have never had a doubt that a ~~court~~ bench of honest judges would liberate a slave if once in court. I think that was the chief motive for the atrocious Dred St Scott decision. The slaveholder dare not confront his slave in that tribunal, if it could be half decently constituted. I shall therefore be with you in spirit, if not in person. I heartily bid you God speed in your efforts to secure obedience to the divine command which the fathers traced on the bell, which I think still hangs over Independence Hall, in the city where you meet. "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all the inhabitants thereof." Yours for universal freedom,

Wm Lloyd Garrison Owen Lovejoy

Queen Lowerton
Nov. 22, 1862